

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
June 3, 2016

Registrations for 2016 Summer Camp continue! We currently have a waiting list for swim lessons in the 1st and 2nd session, but a few spots remain in both camps. Go to www.clewistonrecreation.com for pricing, registrations, and more information regarding camp, or call the Youth Center at 983-1492.

Dates to Remember

June 8, 2016 – Special Magistrate Hearing

June 13, 2016 – Library Advisory Board Meeting

June 16, 2016 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

June 16, 2016 – Clewiston City Commission Workshop and Budget Workshop

June 20, 2016 – Clewiston City Commission Meeting

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Travis Reese reports:

- May has been much busier than normal for permitting. We have issued more than 40 permits in the last month, the most we've processed in one month since 2011 (5 years)! The economy appears to have recharged locally if construction is any indication;
- We have received the plans for the Phase II addition at Florida Community Health Center located at 315 South WC Owen. This will be a 3,940 square foot addition to the rear of the current facility;
- If you're seeing smoke on the west city limits today, it is most likely a controlled burn by USSC. Their contractor is removing exotic and invasive plants and trees from pasturelands.

Community Improvement Officer Debbie McNeil reports:

- I have responded to various citizens' complaints including, but not all inclusive, public nuisance buildings, lawn maintenance including hedge height, signage, business tax receipt, commercial maintenance, unlicensed contracting and trash management.
- Operation Show Your Numbers continues throughout the City until compliance of commercial and residential structures is achieved. Thank you to Ricardo Martinez and the utilities crew who continue to be very helpful with this operation thus far.
- Our next scheduled Magistrate Hearing is on June 8, 2016 at 10:00 AM in the City Commission Chambers. A copy of the agenda will be posted at City Hall on Friday, June 3, 2016 and available at 141 Central Avenue.
- 15 new code cases were generated, 17 code cases resolved, 1 referred out and 9 rental inspections completed.

Hurricane Season June 1 thru November 30

Overall Message: #ItOnlyTakesOne.

It only takes one hurricane to change your life and your community. Hurricanes are one of nature's most powerful and destructive events that the nation faces; they've caused eight of the ten costliest disasters in U.S. history.

2016 NATURAL DISASTER GUIDE

HIRING UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS CAN BE DISASTROUS



Natural disasters, such as hurricanes, tornadoes and floods, have a great impact on Florida's businesses. Without creating a business disaster plan and taking the necessary precautions, businesses may be closed for days, weeks or even months after the storm has passed, threatening jobs and Florida's economy. For more information on how to prepare for natural disasters, visit <http://www.floridadisaster.org/DEMBusiness.asp>.

In the event of a natural disaster, remember that all repair work performed on your home or business should be completed by a licensed professional. Contractors travel from out of state to a disaster area and take advantage of the large amount of repair work to be done. Remember that even if they are licensed in another state to perform construction services, they must also obtain a state license from DBPR to perform those services on your home or business.

Unlicensed activity occurs when a person who is not licensed by the state performs or offers to perform a job or service that requires licensure in one of the professions regulated by the [Division of Regulation](#), [Division of Real Estate](#) and [Division of Certified Public Accounting](#). During a declared State of Emergency, the penalty for unlicensed construction activity becomes a third-degree felony.

Follow these steps to prevent becoming the victim of an unlicensed activity scam after a natural disaster:

1. Know what services require a state license.

Below are some examples of common storm-related services that may or may not require a state license from DBPR. These lists are not intended to be comprehensive, and any additional or detailed questions should be directed to the Department by calling 850.487.1395. Consumers should check with their local building departments to determine if there are additional permitting and/or licensing requirements for their area. For additional licensure requirements related to construction, click [here](#).

Services Requiring a License	Services Not Requiring a License
Roof Repairs	Trimming or Removing a Fallen Tree
New or Replacement Roof	Removing Debris
Installing New Windows	Placing a Tarp on a Roof
Plumbing Repairs	
Electrical Repairs or Rewiring	

2. Verify licenses before you hire or sign a contract.

Protect yourselves from unlicensed activity. Always **verify the** license online or call the Customer Contact Center at 850.487.1395. DBPR also has a free smartphone app that enables consumers to search for state licenses by name or license number. Download the app on **iTunes** or the **Google Play app store**.

3. Use your best judgment when signing a contract and making payments.

Do not pay cash in full before the work is completed and be cautious of writing checks made payable to individuals, especially when dealing with a company. Get everything in writing, including a detailed description of the work to be completed, a completion date and the total cost. Be wary of individuals who only produce an “occupational license,” or corporate filing. An “occupational license” only means that the person has paid a tax receipt to the local municipality.

4. Report unlicensed activity.

During a disaster DBPR may dispatch teams to conduct door-to-door sweeps in conjunction with law enforcement, building departments and other state agencies. Report unlicensed activity by calling the Department’s Unlicensed Activity Program at 1.866.532.1440 or emailing **ULA@myfloridalicense.com**.

All Clewiston Code of Ordinances may be publicly accessed on Municode at the following link: https://www2.municode.com/library/fl/clewiston/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=14849

If you have any questions you may contact the Community Improvement Division at 141 Central Avenue, Clewiston Utilities Building. The public is encouraged to report code violations by contacting us at the above address or 983-1454.

Join us in our dedication to fight the blight in America’s Sweetest Town.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- **For information regarding any of our programs, please call the library at (863) 983-1493 and remember to visit www.hendrylibraries.org. Your library truly has a lot to offer.**

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush Reports:

- Get all Clewiston Golf Course news. Visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov and sign up under Constant Contact. You will automatically be put on the golf course e-mail.
- Get your grips re-done. Contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Golf lessons are available. Contact Robbie Rush at 863-983-1448.
- Clewiston Golf Course Summer Memberships are available now. June 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016 (\$180.00) which includes tax.
- Member Rate for unlimited holes the same day is \$19.00 plus tax.

- Non-Member Rate for unlimited holes the same day is \$28.00 plus tax.
- **SALE** - All pro shop merchandise is 20% off except golf balls and gloves.
- Clewiston Golf Course Summer First Tee Junior Golf Camps are June 13-17, 2016 and July 11-15, 2016. For more information, contact the golf pro shop at 863-983-1448.
- Clewiston Elks Lodge Golf Tournament is scheduled for June 11, 2016. Call the golf shop at 863-983-1448 to sign up.
- **Responsibilities we have as golfers when we play golf:** 1) Replacing or sanding our divots; 2) Raking sand traps after we exit them; 3) Repairing our pitch marks on the green; 4) Keeping our golf carts off green and tee slopes; 5) Letting faster players through; and 6) Throwing your trash away.

Recreation Director Lance Ramer Reports:

- CIT's and LIT's received 1st Aid and CPR, AED training this week and summer camp orientation.
- All Level 2 background checks were completed this week for those required summer camp employees.
- The Harlem Gym floors were resurfaced this week and will re-open on Monday June 6th.
- The C.S. Mott Pool is offering "Adult Swim" times on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5-8pm. You must be 18 and over to swim and the cost is \$3.00.
- Beginning June 7th "Aqua Zumba" will be offered on Tuesday evenings during "Adult Swim". The class is FREE with a paid pool admission.
- AQUA ZUMBA weekend classes will begin again on Saturday, June 4th, 11th and 25th at 9am at the C.S. Mott Pool. A nominal fee will be assessed for the class through our Certified Aqua Zumba Instructor Deborah Barrios.
- Check our website www.clewistonrecreation.com and our FB page Clewiston Recreation for the regular pool operating schedules.
- Clewiston Baseball & Softball All-Star teams have been formed to participate in the Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken District Tournament in several age groups in N. Ft. Myers on June 19th. Teams will practice at Sugarland Sports Complex through post-season play!
- Summer Co-Ed Softball leagues are forming and schedules are being made. Call Andre at 983-1492 to make sure your team gets in for this summer.
- UPCOMING Weekly highlights for Clewiston Recreation
 - June 4th – Pool Party 6-9pm C.S. Mott Pool
 - June 4th – Sweet 15 Party 4pm-Midnight Youth Center
 - June 4th – Birthday Party 2-6pm Splash Pad
 - June 4th – Birthday Party 1-5pm Sugarland Park Pavilion
 - June 4th – Birthday Party 8am-7pm STP Pavilion #4 w/ Bounce House
 - June 5th – Baby Shower 2-6pm Youth Center
 - June 8th - USSC Service Awards 8am-5pm John Boy Auditorium
 - June 9th – Summer Camp Employee Orientation 8:30am Youth Center
- If you are interested in participating in an adult co-ed dodgeball league, summer co-ed softball league, or Summer K-5th AAU Track and Field, please contact Andre at 983-1492.
- Please visit www.clewistonrecreation.com to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:

- Mosquito Control: An air ULV treatment was performed on the morning of May 27. Traps caught just under 100 mosquitoes from the recently cleared land in the northwest section of town. A larvicide mission has been ordered for that area. Other trap locations are as follows: Harlem 700; Okeechobee Blvd. 500; Sports Complex 150. NOTE: Traps run for 12 hours and emit CO2 to attract mosquitoes. People don't stand still for 12 hours so the number caught may be alarming. These numbers are in what is called the "nascence range". Trap identification indicates the majority of mosquitoes trapped are migrating into our treatment zone.
- Street Maintenance: (1) The clock on Central Ave. got a fresh coat of glossy black paint. It now looks like new. (2) Staff is replacing worn-out STOP signs in section two (southeast quad).
- Building Maintenance: A roof leak was repaired at the Golf Course Pro Shop. Gutters were cleaned out while Lee was up there. Golf ball sales must be good if the number of golf balls found in the gutter is any indication. A five gallon bucket full was removed.
- Tree trimming: June is the start of Hurricane season. The City is again offering amnesty for the cost of disposing of tree trimmings during the month of June only. Residents are required to call 983-1471 and set an appointment for staff to review the request. If your request is approved, it will be recorded in the Public Works office. **Only approved addresses will be granted amnesty.** Unapproved debris piles that are larger than the allowed amount collected will be charged a "Special Pick-up Fee".
- PROTECT YOUR FAMILY: Here are some places you need to clean out now to eliminate a breeding site for the mosquito carrying the ZIKA Virus. (1) Gutters; (2) Boats; (3) Planter dishes and bird baths; (4) Children's toys; and (5) Remove and dispose of old tires, buckets and construction debris.
- NEVER place yard debris on a storm drain. The debris stops the flow of storm runoff and fills the inlet with organic matter. When wet, the debris creates a perfect breeding habit for mosquitoes. Check the inlet in front of your property and call 983-1471 if it is full of debris and needs to be cleaned out.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Patrol responded to many child custody complaints this week. Holidays typically produce a high number of visitation disputes.
- Click-it-or-Ticket winds down this week. We have been pleased to see the vast majority of vehicle occupants observing safety belt laws.
- Our Officers participated in the Memorial Day Ceremony put on by the Clewiston High School Criminal Justice Class. The somber event was well planned, well executed, and well attended. Those students are just tremendous citizens!
- Shari Howell, the two Lieutenants and I participated in a conference call with state officials regarding the funding for our new Police Department Building. We expect the application process to begin soon.
- The holiday weekend provided the typical mix of highly enthusiastic celebration, heavy alcohol consumption, loud music, poor driving decisions, and a couple of sidewalk pharmaceutical salesmen. The important thing is, no one was seriously injured.

- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 1228** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 651** Complaints Investigated
 - 21** Arrests Made
 - 22** Traffic Citations issued
 - 9** City Ordinance Violations issued
 - 60** Merchant Escorts Provided
 - 22** Alarms Responded To
 - 3** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- Water Sewer Activities
 - Replaced water line on West & East Royal Palm Avenue and ran three new services.
- Electric Activities
 - Work continued this week with replacement of underground electrical services in Fairgrounds and Everglades Trailer Parks.
 - Work also continued on strengthening Feeder 1 (South Francisco), adding more poles in between spans.
- Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom of the City's website page www.clewiston-fl.gov. You may update your information at any time through the same link.
- If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or insulation, remember the City offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you information. You can also visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or call our office.
- **DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR METER BASED SURGE PROTECTION!** Visit our office today.
- **ONLINE BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE** on our web site at www.clewiston-fl.gov or www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF UTILITY PAYMENT SCAMS: Scam artists are calling Utility customers posing as employees of Clewiston Utilities and threatening disconnection of services if payment is not made immediately. Please be aware:

- 1) **Clewiston Utilities will NEVER request you to purchase money cards or gift cards to pay your account over the phone.**
- 2) **Clewiston Utilities will NEVER contact our customers on the weekend and threaten disconnection of services.**
- 3) **Clewiston Utilities will NEVER speak to our customers in a threatening tone.**

If you feel you have been a victim of this scam, please contact Clewiston Utilities to verify the call or the Clewiston Police Department and file a report.